

Editorial Brickbats

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• The phrases "freedom of speech" and "American Democracy have been quoted frequently this week but practiced little.

The Central Intelligence Agency sent its recruiter, Thomas Culhane, to the campus to conduct job interviews. He said he believed in these ideals but gave no satisfactory explanation for his co-workers' meddlings in South Vietnam, the National Student Association, the AFL-CIO or the Fulbright Scholarship programs.

The Johnson Administration sent a cablegram to the 59th National Governors Conference aboard the S.S. Independence encouraging its "liaison" man to push for a resolution supporting the present course of the Vietnam War.

The President would rather manufacture consensus rather allowing the system to work the way the Framers intended and find out what the governors really think.

University of Wisconsin Chancellor William Sewell said he would suspend the leaders of a student protest against the presence of Dow Chemical Co. recruiters on campus. California Gov. Ronald Reagan has threatened to use national guard troops to quash student anti-war protests at the University of California at Berkeley. We thought such body blows to free expression were dealt only in totalitarian countries.

• Faculty Senate referred the question of opening its meetings to Budget and Policy Committee yesterday. The Committee is to study the proposal and seek a legal opinion from a Law School professor or the attorney general.

The Senate is to be commended for giving the proposal fair consideration instead of slapping it down immediately. We hope that even if the Senate can use a legal technicality to keep its meetings closed, it will recognize its moral obligation to open the meeting to the students and all news media.

• The M16 rifle, or rather its ammunition, is back in the news again.

A House committee investigating complaints about the weapon decided after its six-month probe into the situation that the faulty performance was not a result of the rifle itself but the ammunition.

Accusations and counter-accusations now are flying in all directions among the committee: Colt Industries, Inc., manufacturers of the rifle; Olin-Matheson, manufacturers of powder used in the ammunition, and the Army, which set the specifications for both.

Where the blame lies is a slouged question at best.

At any rate, it is a sad comment on a society that has committed most of its time and resources to developing more sophisticated weapons with which to wage war when it cannot produce a decent one for its young men to use in the most immoral, bloody war in history.

It is sad, too, when the government devotes so much time to bickering over the techniques of waging war but for the most part closes its ears to any questioning of why it is in Vietnam in the first place.

Ben Hansen